

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1.-38. (canceled)

39. (currently amended) A method of constructing an electrode assembly including:

positioning a mandrel on a pin such that a portion of a first electrode strip is positioned between the mandrel and the pin;

welding the mandrel to the pin; and

winding the first electrode strip together with a second electrode strip so as to form a spiral roll, the spiral roll being formed after positioning the mandrel on the pin.

40. (previously presented) The method of claim 39, further comprising:

crimping the mandrel to the pin.

41.-70. (canceled)

71. (previously presented) The method of claim 39, wherein the spiral roll is formed such that a portion of the pin is positioned in the spiral roll and another portion of the pin is positioned outside of the spiral roll.

72. (previously presented) The method of claim 39, wherein the mandrel is positioned on the pin such that the mandrel is in electrical communication with the pin.

73. (previously presented) The method of claim 39, wherein an end cap is positioned on the pin,

the end cap being configured to serve as a cap for a battery case,

the end cap including an electrical insulator, and

the pin extending through the insulator.

74. (previously presented) The method of claim 39, wherein the end cap includes a conductive member surrounding the insulator.

75. (previously presented) The method of claim 39, wherein the mandrel includes a tube.

76. (previously presented) The method of claim 75, wherein positioning the mandrel on the pin includes positioning the pin in an interior of the tube.

77. (previously presented) The method of claim 39, wherein the mandrel has a c-shaped cross-section.

78. (previously presented) The method of claim 39, wherein positioning the mandrel on the pin includes sliding the mandrel onto the pin.

79-80. (canceled)

81. (new) The method of claim 39, wherein the first end of the first electrode strip is connected to the pin such that the pin is in electrical communication with the first electrode strip.

82. (new) A method of constructing an electrode assembly including:

positioning a mandrel on a pin such that a portion of a first electrode strip is positioned between the mandrel and the pin and such that the mandrel is in electrical communication with the pin; and

winding the first electrode strip together with a second electrode strip so as to form a spiral roll, the spiral roll being formed after positioning the mandrel on the pin.

83. (new) The method of claim 82, further comprising:

crimping the mandrel to the pin.

84. (new) The method of claim 82, wherein the spiral roll is formed such that a portion of the pin is positioned in the spiral roll and another portion of the pin is positioned outside of the spiral roll.

85. (new) The method of claim 82, wherein an end cap is positioned on the pin,  
the end cap being configured to serve as a cap for a battery case,  
the end cap including an electrical insulator, and  
the pin extending through the insulator.

86. (new) The method of claim 82, wherein the end cap includes a conductive member surrounding the insulator.

87. (new) The method of claim 82, wherein the mandrel includes a tube.

88. (new) The method of claim 87, wherein positioning the mandrel on the pin includes positioning the pin in an interior of the tube.

89. (new) The method of claim 82, wherein the mandrel has a c-shaped cross-section.

90. (new) The method of claim 82, wherein positioning the mandrel on the pin includes sliding the mandrel onto the pin.

91. (new) The method of claim 82, wherein the first end of the first electrode strip is connected to the pin such that the pin is in electrical communication with the first electrode strip.

92. (new) A method of constructing an electrode assembly including:  
positioning a mandrel on a pin such that a portion of a first electrode strip is positioned between the mandrel and the pin and such that the pin is in electrical communication with the first electrode strip; and

winding the first electrode strip together with a second electrode strip so as to form a spiral roll, the spiral roll being formed after positioning the mandrel on the pin.

93. (new) The method of claim 92, further comprising:

crimping the mandrel to the pin.

94. (new) The method of claim 92, wherein the spiral roll is formed such that a portion of the pin is positioned in the spiral roll and another portion of the pin is positioned outside of the spiral roll.

95. (new) The method of claim 92, wherein an end cap is positioned on the pin,  
the end cap being configured to serve as a cap for a battery case,  
the end cap including an electrical insulator, and  
the pin extending through the insulator.

96. (new) The method of claim 92, wherein the end cap includes a conductive member surrounding the insulator.

97. (new) The method of claim 92, wherein the mandrel includes a tube.

98. (new) The method of claim 97, wherein positioning the mandrel on the pin includes positioning the pin in an interior of the tube.

99. (new) The method of claim 92, wherein the mandrel has a c-shaped cross-section.

100. (new) The method of claim 92, wherein positioning the mandrel on the pin includes sliding the mandrel onto the pin.